

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 14-18 are amended. Claims 20-25 are new.
2. Claims 15-18 are amended to address the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. The changes merely correct antecedent basis errors, and do not further limit or narrow the scope of the claims.
3. Claims 14 and 19 are not anticipated by Li under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). In Applicant's invention according to claim 14, the flexible conductive body is formed in a first position and set in a second, compressed position. The flexible body is activated into a third, expanded position to accommodate the variable gap and establish the electrical connection.

Li does not disclose or suggest setting the contact assembly 20 in a compressed position and activating the contact assembly 20 into a third expanded position. Rather, in Li, during service, the second member 34 is "compressed" to produce a wiping action along the interface between pads 12, 16 (Col. 4, lines 56-59 and Col. 5, lines 3-6). The electrical connection is established during compression. When the contact assembly 20 is arranged in each aperture, the intermediate first member turns 35 provide for the storage of elastic energy during engagement with IC package 7 and PCB 9 (Col. 5, lines 28-30 and 40-43). In Li, unlike Applicant's invention, there is no activation into a third expanded position. Thus, claim 14 is not anticipated by Li. Claims 15-19 depend from 14 and should be allowable at least in view of the dependencies.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure related to the contact

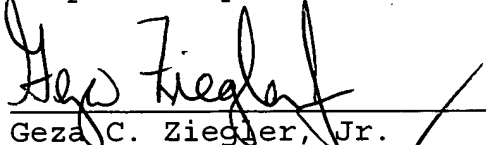
having a shape of "an E, a C, A Random coil spring and a helical spring." Thus, claim 19 cannot be anticipated.

4. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 15. However, Applicant respectfully submit that the claims should be allowable for the above-stated reasons.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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27 June 2003
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